

**First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)**

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**Lenten Evening Prayer and Song**

**March 3, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor**

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**As we gather.** . . . “Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves. . . .What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment’s hesitation.” - Catherine Doherty

## WELCOME

### + CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Psalm 1)*

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked.

**Or stand in the way that sinners take, or sit in the company of mockers,**

But whose delight is in the law of the Lord,

**And who meditates on his law day and night.**

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,

**Which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither.**

**Spirit of the living God, draw us close to you that we might be nourished and bear fruit.**

### + OPENING HYMN

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

649

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come.  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

It is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God's mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us make our confession, as we pray together. . .

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wisdom, we come before you in humility. Too often we choose our own way, discern our own path, without looking to you. We ignore the prompting of your Holy Spirit, and choose what is easiest, most comfortable, or requires the least from us. Please forgive us for our narrowmindedness. Soften our hearts of stone, that we might have, instead, hearts of flesh to perceive your call in our lives. Then please give us the courage to act on your calling. Hear us now as we continue to confess in the silence of our hearts. . .

*(A time of Silent Confession)*

## KYRIE

*Lord, Have Mercy*

551

Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalm 103 reminds us that God forgives all our sins and separates us from our sin as far as the East is from the West.

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for us.

Friends, believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bruce Gilbert

God of life, open us now to receive your dream for our lives and your Truth for our world, so we can follow your path and show others the way. United in Christ we pray.

**Amen.**

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup> yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,  
<sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hid from its heat.

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the Lord are sure,  
making wise the simple;  
<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the Lord are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the Lord is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true  
and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey,  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.

<sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 NRSV

Nancy Hummer

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*  
Chris Anderson, Musician

471

O, Lord hear my prayer  
O, Lord hear my prayer  
All my hope comes from God.  
O, Lord hear my prayer  
O, Lord hear my prayer  
God, the wellspring of life.

**Note:** “O Lord, Hear My Prayer” is from the Taizé Community in France. The musical style of Taizé emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated many times and sometimes also sung in canon. The repeated nature of these lines are designed so that the song can become a prayer for the participant.

## + AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Affirmation of Faith by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

**We believe.**

Sometimes our belief is confident,  
Like a child on a dance floor—  
Unashamed and wildly genuine.

We believe.

**Sometimes our belief is distant,  
Flickering and calling out to us  
Like a lighthouse on the sea.**

**We believe.**

**Sometimes our belief shows up as passion,  
Guiding the way, we vote, shop, give, live, trust, and hope.**

We believe.

**Sometimes our belief is like a shadow—  
Faith stitched to our heels, unmoveable, unloseable,  
A gift for winding journeys.**

**We believe.**

Sometimes our belief exists like growing pains.

We step forward. We fall back.

But again and again,

Jesus invites us to listen,

To grow, and to take another step.

**So again and again,**

**We speak these truths out loud:**

**We believe.**

We believe.

**Again and again, we believe.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

## + SENDING HYMN

*Jesus, Remember Me*

Becca Anderson, Musician

227

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

## + CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Adapted from a Charge and Benediction by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

As you leave this space,  
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.  
May your arms hold those in need.  
May your feet walk toward justice.  
May your heart trust its worth.  
May your soul dance in God's grace.  
And may this be your rhythm—  
Again and again and again,  
Until God's promised day.  
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.  
**Amen.**

## + POSTLUDE

*A Father's Quiet Strength*  
Justin Streletz, Pianist

Lani Smith

+ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*